

VERBS

A verb is an essential part of a sentence. A group of words without a verb is a fragment, not a sentence.

Action Verbs

Action verbs are used most frequently when you write or speak.

An action verb tells what action a subject is performing.

An action verb can show physical action, mental action, or ownership.

PHYSICAL ACTION: run, pull, stir, dive, shout, yawn, bounce

MENTAL ACTION: think, wish, believe, understand, imagine

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

All action verbs fall within two general classes. An action verb that has an object is transitive. You can find an object by asking the question What? or Whom? after the verb. An action verb that has no object is intransitive.

TRANSITIVE: I forgot the key to my locker today. [Forgot what? Key is the object.]

INTRANSITIVE: Frank studied in the library last night. [Studied what? Studied has no object.]

Some action verbs can be transitive in one sentence and intransitive in another sentence.

TRANSITIVE: April played the piano at the party. [Played what? Piano is the object.]

INTRANSITIVE: The band played during halftime. [Played what? Played has no object.]

The verb that states the action of the subject of a sentence is called the **predicate**.

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The man ran. The cat napped. The dogs howl. The chicken pecks. A car screeched.
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The predicate verb is not part of an expander phrase.

The dog dug /while men painted the fence\. Dug is the predicate.
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VERB / PREDICATE PRACTICE

Circle all the verbs. ○

Mark each subject and predicate.

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1. Ice hockey started in Canada.
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2. Before 1859, baseball umpires sat in a padded rocking chair behind the catcher.
3. Because she practiced, Wilma Rudolph won the 100-meter dash in the Olympic Games in 1960.
4. Although tumbling existed as a old art form, modern gymnastics originated in Germany in the early nineteenth century.
5. At home games the Denver Broncos play in Mile High Stadium.
6. In baseball, home plate has five sides.
7. The ancient Egyptians bowled on alleys with stone balls, and stone pins.
8. Johnny Vander Meer pitched two straight no-hitters in 1938.
9. The game of soccer probably first occurred in England in A.D. 217.
10. In 1979, ice skater Beth Heiden captured four gold medals in the women's World Championships.